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Atty. Dkt. No. 065691-0163  
Appl. Serial No. 09/312,485

23. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing granules containing a plant substance comprising coating a neutral core with a layer containing the plant substance, wherein:

- a) the neutral core has a particle size of between 200 and 1600  $\mu\text{m}$  and consists of a substance selected from the group consisting of sugar, starch, mannitol, sorbitol, xylitol, cellulose, talc, and mixtures thereof;
- b) the plant substance is applied on the neutral core by powder-coating when the plant substance is in the form of a dry extract, or by coating in solution when the plant substance is in the form of a soft or fluid extract;
- c) during the process, 5 to 25 % by weight of organic solvents are used; and
- d) the coating of the layer containing the plant substance on the neutral core further comprises is carried out by spraying an alcoholic solution of polyvinylpyrrolidone as a binder and optionally another pharmaceutically acceptable excipient; and the plant substance is applied on the neutral core in the form of a dry, soft or fluid extract.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the neutral core consists of starch and sucrose in a 20:80 mass ratio.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the neutral core consists of no more than 20% sucrose by mass.

**In the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

- 1.-13. (Cancelled).
14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the fluid extract contains from 30 to 40% v/v alcohol.
15. (Cancelled).
16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the size of the neutral core is between 950 and 1400  $\mu\text{m}$ , and wherein the plant extract is dry.
17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the size of the neutral core is between 900 and 1250  $\mu\text{m}$ , and wherein the plant extract is soft or fluid.
18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the percentage by mass of fluid extract used is between 15 and 25% relative to the weight of the granules.
19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the percentage by mass of dry extract is as high as 75% relative to the weight of the granules.
20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the granules are prepared in a pan or in a fluidized air bed.
21. (Cancelled).
22. (Cancelled).